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God of peace !—whose spirit fills  
 All the echoes of our hills,  
 All the murmurs of our rills,  
 Now the storm is o'er ;—  
 O, let freemen be our sons ;  
 And let future Washingtons  
 Rise, to lead their valiant ones,  
 Till there's war no more.

By the patriot's hallow'd rest,  
 By the warrior's gory breast,  
 Never let our graves be press'd  
 By a despot's throne ;  
 By the pilgrims' toil and cares,  
 By their battles and their prayers,  
 By their ashes,—let our heirs  
 Bow to thee alone.'

VOL. II. pp. 270, 271.

We cannot refrain from mentioning, in the language of encomium, the *Shakspeare Ode*, by Charles Sprague. It shines, in this collection, unrivalled for brilliancy, variety, and power. There are, indeed, few lyrical compositions equal to it.

One of the best parts of Mr Kettell's work is the very full catalogue of American poetry at the end of the third volume. Whoever examines it will have no doubt of the fertility of our poetical soil, nor of the increasing rapidity of its production.

ART. XI.—*Memoir of De Witt Clinton, with an Appendix containing numerous Documents illustrative of the principal Events of his Life.* By DAVID HOSACK, M. D. F. R. S. New York. 1829. 4to. pp. 530.

THE work of Dr Hosack is a handsome quarto volume of five hundred pages and more, one hundred and thirty-five of which are occupied with a Memoir of Governor Clinton, and the remainder, being an appendix, printed in a smaller type, comprises a collection of documents illustrative of the events of Mr Clinton's life, accompanied by a map of the Erie and Northern Canals with the adjacent territory, and miniature prints of the heads of some of the most active promoters of the great works of internal improvement in New York. The work appears to be a tribute of friendship, as well as an inte-

resting historical and biographical record. The Memoir is a public discourse, delivered before the citizens of New York on the eighth of November, 1828, in compliance with a vote of a previous general meeting, and published at their request.

Mr Charles Clinton, the grandfather of De Witt, emigrated from the county of Longford, Ireland, with his family and a number of his friends, in 1729. They took passage at Dublin, in a vessel commanded by one Rymer, a savage brute, who killed one of his men in the course of the voyage, by striking him with a pipe stave, and starved some of the passengers by needlessly and purposely protracting the voyage to a period of about five months. Mr Clinton lost his wife, two daughters, and a son, before landing in America. After the vessel made land, which was recognised to be the coast of Virginia, the captain again put out to sea, notwithstanding the urgent remonstrances of the passengers, whom he gave explicitly to understand, that he should continue at sea until he had absolutely starved them all to death, unless they would redeem themselves from this sentence by giving additional passage money; to which, not knowing what better to do, they consented, and the survivors were accordingly finally landed on Cape Cod. The company afterwards established themselves at Little Britain in Orange, then Ulster county, New York, about eight miles east from Hudson river, and sixty from the city of New York, where their descendants remain to this day, and where De Witt Clinton was born on the second of March, 1769, forty years after the emigration of his grandfather's family from Ireland. The family have borne a respectable, and some of its members a distinguished rank, in this country, both before and since the revolution. Two of the second generation, uncles to De Witt, were physicians; one, vice-president of the United States; and James, his father, rose through various military grades to the rank of general in the American army of the revolution. After the establishment of independence, he retired to domestic life, at his residence in Orange county, from which he was, however, occasionally called by various important civil appointments in the state of New York, during a long life of seventy-six years which terminated in 1812. He married a De Witt.

De Witt Clinton acquired the rudiments of his classical education under the Rev. Mr Moffatt, the presbyterian clergyman of his native town, and at the academy of Kingston,

then under the superintendence of Mr John Addison, whose name, says Dr Hosack, gave celebrity to his school ; and we are careful to commemorate both of them, since every man who rises to distinction and usefulness, sheds some of the lustre of his reputation upon those who conducted his youthful steps in the paths of learning. Clinton was entered at Columbia College in New York, as a member of the junior class, in 1784, and was graduated in 1786, being one of the first graduates after the revolution. The professors, at that period, were, in the classics, Dr William Cochran, now vice-president of the college of Windsor, in Nova Scotia ; John Kemp in the mathematics ; and Bishop Moore, afterwards president of the institution, in rhetoric. 'It was,' says Dr Cochran in a letter to Dr Hosack, 'a mere accident that either that seminary or myself had any share in educating so great and useful a man. In the summer of 1784, his father brought him to New York on his way to Princeton college, to place him at that seminary. The legislature had passed an act for restoring and new naming King's College, afterwards to be a university by the name of Columbia ; but no arrangements or appointments had been made, only a committee was empowered to provide in a temporary way, for what might be most needful. The late Mr Duane, then mayor of New York, was one of this committee, who, hearing that the nephew of the governor was going out of the state for his education, applied to me to know if I would undertake the care of him and such others as might offer, until the appointments for the college should be made ; to which I readily agreed, and Clinton and half a dozen more were put under my tuition.' 'To the latest period of his life,' says Professor Renwick in his eulogy, 'Clinton was fond of acknowledging his obligations to those useful and learned instructors.' He believes that Clinton's future character and career of public services were essentially influenced by the instructions of Dr Kemp, under whose tuition he laid the foundation of that acquaintance with the principles of internal improvement, and of those clear views of national policy which he afterwards so fully developed, and applied with such advantage to his native state and the union at large. The capabilities for internal improvement in the state of New York seem early to have attracted the attention of Dr Kemp, and were particularly explained and illustrated in his annual course of lectures.

Having studied his profession of the law with Mr Samuel

Jones of New York, father of the present chief justice of the superior court, Clinton commenced practice in that city in 1789, but soon after retired from his profession to be the private secretary of his uncle, George Clinton, then governor of the state, in which employment he continued until the termination of that Governor's administration, in 1795. Young Clinton was thus early initiated into political life, and he continued from that time to be constantly before the public in some office of distinction, or in some literary, political, or economical enterprise, to the day of his death. In 1797 he was elected a member of the legislative assembly. Afterwards successively, and at various periods, he was senator of the state, member of the executive council, governor, mayor of the city of New York, a member of the senate of the United States, and a candidate for the presidency of the United States. He was mayor of New York from 1803 to 1815, excepting two years. He was governor of the state of New York from 1817 to 1822, when he declined being a candidate for reëlection. He was again governor in 1826, and continued in the office till his decease, February 11, 1828.

Mr Clinton's memory is intimately connected with the great and triumphant enterprises of the Western and Northern canals, subjects which occupy a very conspicuous place in the Memoir of Dr Hosack, and especially in the Appendix, in which the author has made an extensive collection of documents, many of which are illustrative of what may be called the secret history of these works. Two hundred and sixty pretty closely printed quarto pages of the Appendix are filled with this subject, including the narratives obtained by the author from many individuals, who took an early part in this Herculean labor of breaking through the natural barriers which separated the east and the west. We have already, in a previous number,\* given a sketch of the history of what is called the 'canal policy' of New York down to 1822, in a review of 'Public Documents,' relating to the New York canals, 'The History' of the canals published by Elkanah Watson, and 'A Vindication of Mr Watson's Claim to the Merit of projecting the Lake Canal Policy, by Robert Troup, Esq.'

Dr Hosack's professed object is to supply evidence of the part taken by each coöperator in this great undertaking, that

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\* North American Review for January 1822, vol. xiv. p. 230.

his due honors may be awarded to each, and to collect materials in addition to those already accumulated for an authentic and complete history of it.

To understand the early proceedings on the subject of the two canals, we ought to take a general view of the territory, which is the scene of these stupendous works. Taking the western bank of Hudson river, and passing up its course in a pretty direct line, bearing a little to the east of north, and then following up an eastern branch, and passing the summit that divides the waters falling into the Hudson from those falling into Lake Champlain, and then passing down a stream emptying into that lake, keeping a pretty direct general course the whole distance, we arrive at the lake. This is the Northern canal, an improvement about the advantages and general location of which, there does not seem to have been any great diversity of opinion.

But the best general course of a canal, or other channel of inland navigation, between the Hudson and the great western lakes, was not by any means so obvious, though for the eastern section, only one route seems ever to have been proposed, namely, that by the Mohawk river. Starting from Albany you pass, in the present course of the canal, along the western bank of Hudson river, until you come to the confluence of the Mohawk with the Hudson, having thus far followed the course common to the two canals, the Northern and Western, and consequently bearing northeasterly of the general course to Lake Erie. But turning here to the left, you go up the southern bank of the Mohawk, bearing to the westward of northwest, and a little northwardly, but not very widely from the direct course from the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson towards Lake Erie, until you come to what was formerly called Fort Stanwix, now Rome, the summit which divides the waters flowing southerly by the Mohawk, from those flowing northerly by Wood creek, and through Oneida lake, into Lake Ontario. As far as this summit of Fort Stanwix, or Rome, there was no question about the general course. But at this summit the question arose, whether to bear to the northward along Wood creek, through Oneida lake, and then along Oneida and Oswego rivers to the town of Oswego on the southern shore of lake Ontario, and not far west from its eastern end, and then take the lake about one hundred and thirty miles towards the mouth of Niagara river, which empties into it on the

southern shore some thirty miles to the eastward of its western extremity, the course being very nearly west. You then turn towards Lake Erie, either in a southerly direction or one easterly or westerly of it, according to the point of departure from Lake Ontario. If the mouth of Niagara river were the point of departure, and Buffalo, the present termination of the canal on Lake Erie, the destination, the course would be to the eastward of south. This was one of the routes proposed as the channel of the great western transportation in this quarter, and no other appears to have been publicly proposed until 1807. At that time a suggestion was made, that there might be no necessity of locking down into lake Ontario, and then up again from it to the height of the Rome summit, but that you might turn to the westward at that summit, bearing, however, a little northerly in a pretty direct course towards Lake Erie, and keep the height of this summit. And it has been a question of some interest, and one which occupies some part of the documents in this Appendix, to determine who has the merit of first suggesting this route, upon which, as is well known, the canal has been constructed, though it does not keep the height of the Rome summit ; and upon this question Dr Hosack's publication throws new light.

It had been asserted, that this over-land route was first suggested by Gouverneur Morris, in a letter to Mr John Parish of Hamburgh, dated December 20, 1800. But a letter of Mr Morris to General Lee, dated January, 1801, which we noticed in our former article on this subject, seems to put this question at rest ; for in this he says, 'As far as I can judge from observation and information, the communication between *Lake Ontario and the Hudson* is not only practicable but easy.' Though Mr Morris had the credit of lending his influence in favor of the general system of inland navigation, at an early period, when his general, enthusiastic, and somewhat romantic views, expressed in strong and highly colored language, as his manner was, may have essentially promoted this enterprise, yet, until some new evidence is produced, there is nothing to show, that he originally suggested the route in question.

To a practical engineer, the mere suggesting of an inquiry, how near to the direct line between two given points a canal may be made, without knowing enough of the territory to form a probable opinion whether the route suggested is practicable, will appear to be an inconsiderable merit, and one hardly worth

contending for. And so doubtless it is in ordinary cases ; for two points being assumed, as in the present case they were, the very first question made always is, how near you may be able to keep to the direct course between them. But in the present instance the temptations towards Lake Ontario were so strong, as the streams led that way, and the facilities for canalling were apparently so much greater, and as the public attention had for many years been so uniformly directed in that course, it was no small merit to turn it into a new channel ; especially since the utility of the canal, as we showed in our former article on this subject, mainly depended upon taking the over-land route. We do not, therefore, think, that the inquiries in which Dr Hosack, among others, has engaged on this question, gives to it an exaggerated importance.

Professor Renwick says, in a note to his eulogy, that this route was spoken of by Professor Kemp, in his lectures to the students of Columbia college, as early as 1805.

From the documents in Dr Hosack's Appendix, it appears that two other persons, originally and wholly independently of each other, publicly proposed keeping the interior and more direct course from Rome to Lake Erie. And as it is interesting to recur to the incipient movements towards stupendous results, we will dwell a little upon the subject. The earlier of these two suggestions was made by Mr Jesse Hawley, whose own account of the matter we will quote, as it appears now for the first time to be fully laid before the public ; to understand which, the reader is to bear in mind, that as early as 1791 the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company had been incorporated for the purpose of improving the navigation of the Mohawk, and thence across the Rome summit and down Wood Creek to Lake Ontario, and had constructed locks round the Little Falls of the Mohawk, and cut a canal across the summit at Rome, a distance of a mile and a half, in so favorable ground, that it had been occasionally flowed, so that boats might pass from the head of boat navigation on the Mohawk into Wood Creek, before any canal was made. Mr Hawley's account is as follows.

' In April 1805, then a merchant at Geneva and concerned in forwarding flour from Mynderse's mills, owing to the very imperfect navigation of the old Mohawk canal, and various methods being proposed for improving it, I suggested the idea of an over-land canal from the foot of Lake Erie, at Buffalo, (as containing a



head and great reservoir of water to feed it,) to Utica, and thence down the Mohawk to Hudson River. These impediments to navigation would often call forth the expression of our wishes, that an arm of the North River had been extended into the Genesee country by the Author of nature, for our facilities of transport; but no one yet had suggested the idea of effecting this object *by a canal!* I occasionally mentioned my suggestion to my friends, and was generally laughed at for my whim!

'A reverse in my business landed me on the gaol limits of Ontario, in Canandaigua, in August 1807. Fully persuaded of the practicability of such canal, and having, thus far, lived to but little purpose, I thought I might render myself useful to society by giving publicity to the suggestion, and, in October 1807, commenced writing on the subject in the Genesee Messenger, a newspaper then published at Canandaigua, which I continued to fourteen numbers, in April 1808. My plan was a canal of one hundred feet wide and ten feet deep, laid on an inclined plane, from Buffalo to Utica, and thence down the channel of the Mohawk, with improvements in it, to Schenectady, and thence over the portage to Albany, for a time—to be constructed by the national government, rather than by an incorporated company of individuals—not conceiving, then, the state treasury, or finances, adequate to the undertaking. These essays were treated with much ridicule, and, by some, were considered as "the effusions of the manaic." The writer was unknown for some time.' pp. 301, 302.

The project was first proposed by Mr Hawley in the paper called 'The Commonwealth,' published at Pittsburg, on the fourteenth of January, 1807, as follows.

'It ought to commence at the foot of Lake Erie, as soon as a suitable place can be found to afford a draft on its waters—to gain and preserve a moderate descent of ground it will have to pursue a northeastern course for some miles; it then may pursue an east course and cross the Genesee River somewhere above its Falls, thence near to, and probably in the channel of Mud Creek, an outlet of Canandaigua Lake, and follow them into Seneca River; but leaving that, up stream to Jack's Rift, for the purpose of preserving the head of water—thence meandering along between the high and low grounds of Onondaga and Oneida counties, going south of their lakes, and let it fall into the Mohawk and mingle with its waters somewhere above Utica.' p. 307.

In the same essay Mr Hawley says, 'the project is probably not more than twelve months old in human conception;' and he asserts very explicitly, that he had before heard of no pub-

lic suggestion of this route, and that it was wholly original with himself. The same subject is taken up in some of his fourteen essays, subsequently published in 'The Genessee Messenger' under the signature of 'Hercules.' Those essays are republished in this Appendix.

It appears that Mr Hawley's merit is confined to the suggestion merely of the general route. He made a conjectural estimate of the expense at \$6,000,000, which has been mentioned as corresponding pretty nearly to the actual expense of the canal when completed. But this is a mistake, for Mr Hawley was estimating on a canal of one hundred feet in width and ten feet deep, *from Lake Erie to Rome*, quite a different one from that which has been constructed. And he also proposed a canal between these two points on an inclined plane, a very favorite plan with the early projectors, which does not seem to have been abandoned until 1816. Long after this route was adopted, the inclined plane continued to be a part of the plan. Gouverneur Morris was in favor of the inclined plane. And at a meeting held at New York city, in 1815, Judge Platt made an address, in which he says, 'I pointed at the stupendous project of a canal on an inclined plane, which had unfortunately been proposed in the report of the commissioners,' drawn up by Gouverneur Morris in 1811. Mr Hawley, therefore, only fell into an error, or rather a romantic extravagance, which was common to all the advocates of the canal for eight years afterwards. It seems remarkable that a conception so very bold as that of a canal on a regularly inclined plane, for such a great distance, should have taken such strong hold of the minds of so many men; the Roman aqueducts afforded specimens of works only approaching to the grandeur of this project. It was wisely abandoned in 1816, when the legislature began to take more serious and practical steps in the work.

As we have quoted the passage in Mr Hawley's letter in which he speaks of his circumstances at the time of writing 'Hercules,' we ought to add another from the same letter, which is dated at Rochester, July, 1828, in which he says,

'I claim the original and the first publication of the over-land route of the Erie canal from Buffalo to the Hudson—that, in it, I have been a benefactor to the public in general, and to the state of New York in particular—and I bless the Author of my existence, that I have lived to see it finished, having in the mean

time, by laborious industry, attained, from bankruptcy, to a comfortable moderate competency, and being pleasantly located, within a mile of the canal.' p. 304.

The other person, who, without knowing anything of Mr Hawley's essays, suggested the over-land route, was Mr Joshua Forman, since Judge Forman, whose account of the first practical step taken in the New York legislature, in the splendid career of internal improvement, is too interesting to be omitted. He says,

'On taking my seat as a member of assembly, for the county of Onondaga, at the session of 1807-8, my bookseller handed me several numbers of Rees' Cyclopædia, to which I was a subscriber. I had early been acquainted with the projected works of the Inland Lock Navigation Company from the Hudson River to Lake Ontario, and had seen in the statute book an act to incorporate a company to lock up the Niagara Falls from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie. In reading, at my leisure, in the article "canal," an account of the numerous canals and improved river navigations in England, I soon discovered the relative importance of the former over the latter. Applying this to our interior, I perceived how much more the country would be benefited by a canal than by the works contemplated; and observing the number of profitable canals intersecting a country of such small extent from sea to sea as the northern part of England, it occurred to me, that, if a canal was ever made to open a communication from the Hudson to the western lakes, it would be worth more than all the extra cost to go directly through the country to Lake Erie. Glancing my eye along the line it must pass, it appeared to me, from the knowledge I had of the country, to be practicable. Sitting, at the time, in the room with Judge Wright and General M'Niel of Oneida, my room-mates, I immediately broached the subject to them. At first, Judge Wright objected, that it would be a folly to make a canal one hundred and fifty miles abreast of a good sloop navigation in Lake Ontario. To this I replied, that the rich country through which it must pass would, of itself, support a canal; and the benefit of a continued navigation, safe from the dangers of the sea at all times and from the enemy in time of war, and building up a line of towns in the interior, which must grow up on the Lake shore, if that was to be the route of transportation, would abundantly compensate the extra expense of a direct canal, over that of a canal and lockage from the point of departure down to Lake Ontario and up by Niagara to Lake Erie. The subject was freely discussed. Judge Wright gave in to the plan, and it was agreed by all, that the project was of immense importance, and measures ought to be taken to ascertain its practi-

cability. I drew up the resolution, as now printed, which Judge Wright agreed to second, that it might lie on the table until, by the rules of the house, it might be called up. Without much confidence that the general government would construct such a canal, I framed the resolution to take advantage of Mr Jefferson's proposition, to expend the surplus revenues of the nation in making roads and canals, to induce our legislature to explore the route of a canal, which, if proposed as a work of the state, would not have been listened to at all ; and although I had stated the proposition in a favorable light in the preamble, when it was read in the house it produced such expressions of surprise and ridicule as are due to a very wild, foolish project.

' Fired with the novelty and importance of my project, and somewhat piqued at the manner of its reception in the house, I took pains to prepare myself on the subject, conversed with several of the members at their rooms, and when it was called up, addressed the house in support of the resolution. I stated in evidence of its being practicable, that after following the valley of the Mohawk to Rome, it would have the valley of the Oneida and Seneca Rivers to the head of Mud Creek, an uncommonly flat country ; and from the west, (if no better route was found,) from the Niagara up the Tonnewanta and down Allen's Creek to the Genesee River, the intermediate country, although nothing particularly favorable was known, yet as there were no high mountains or large rivers intervening, it would most likely be found practicable without any of those expensive tunnels or aqueducts common to canals in Europe. I presented a probable estimate of its cost, calculated from that of the Languedoc Canal, at four millions five hundred thousand dollars ; this doubled, for the advanced price of labor, which I considered a large allowance, and adding a million for inexperience, gave ten millions of dollars, in my humble opinion an ample estimate for the work, which must appear a bagatelle to the value of such a navigation, whether considered in relation to the state, in improving the western district, and enriching the city of New York by the trade of the rich and growing country bordering on the western lakes ; or as respected the United States, whose forty or fifty millions of acres of land, bordering on the lakes, would be enhanced in value beyond the whole expense by causing their rapid settlement, form a dense frontier barrier towards Canada, and by forming an outlet for their trade through our own territory, instead of its flowing down the St Lawrence, it would be an indissoluble bond of union between the Western and Atlantic states—and I recollect distinctly observing, that it would chain them to our destinies in any national convulsion.

' The resolution was adopted on the ground, as expressed by

several, "that it *could do no harm*, and *might do some good*." pp. 343—346.

The appropriation made at this time, for explorations and surveys towards this magnificent undertaking, was *six hundred dollars*.

Mr Forman was wrought up to great enthusiasm in the project, and in the winter of 1809 made a journey to Washington for the purpose of conversing with Mr Jefferson on this subject, and attempting to obtain the coöperation of the general government. Mr Jefferson, after listening to Mr Forman's glowing description of the advantages of the undertaking, and the reasons which ought to induce Congress to promote it, replied, 'It was a very fine project, and might be executed a century hence.' 'Why, sir,' said he, 'here is a canal of a few miles, projected by General Washington, which, if completed, would render this a fine commercial city, which has languished for many years, because the small sum of two hundred thousand dollars, necessary to complete it, cannot be obtained of the general government, the state government, or from individuals—and you talk of making a canal two hundred and fifty miles through a wilderness—it is little short of madness to think of it at this day.' But in a letter addressed by Mr Jefferson to Governor Clinton, December, 1822, he says, in reply to inquiries respecting the above conversation, 'Many, I dare say, think with me, that New York has anticipated, by a full century, the ordinary progress of improvement.' Judge Forman says, a report had circulated of Mr Jefferson's replying, 'he had remarked that it was a century too soon; but he was then convinced he was a century behind a just estimate of the march of improvement in this country.'

The miniature engravings which we have mentioned, are the following, namely, Gouverneur Morris, Cadwallader D. Colden, Christopher Colles, Jeffrey Smith, Elkanah Watson, Philip Schuyler, George Clinton, Jesse Hawley, Joshua Forman, Thomas Eddy, Jonas Platt, J. R. Van Rensselaer, and De Witt Clinton, with that of Washington, as an active promoter of internal improvement, though he could have had no agency in this particular enterprise. We have spoken particularly of Mr Hawley and Judge Forman, not because we suppose their services preëminent over those of others, but because the parts thus acted are more particularly related in this Appendix, which, in this respect, supplies material additions to

the account before given of the New York canals, in this journal.

It is not to be supposed, that this stupendous work was accomplished without great obstructions and difficulties. Though its advantages and utility were obvious enough and immediately assented to, on its first proposal, yet it was looked upon by many as a splendid dream, which might possibly be realized at a remote period, but was to be long looked upon as a gorgeous possibility, rather than as a subject of any practical attempt. Mr Jefferson, upon the near prospect of its completion in 1822, regarded it as a phenomenon in economy not easily accounted for. 'This great work,' says he, 'suggests a question both curious and difficult, as to the comparative capability of nations to execute great enterprises. It is not from greater surplus of produce, after supplying their own wants [in New York], for in this, New York is not beyond some other states. Is it from other sources of industry additional to her produce? This may be.—Or is it a moral superiority? A sounder calculating mind as to the most profitable employment of surplus, by improvement of capital instead of consumption? I should lean to this latter hypothesis, were I disposed to puzzle myself with such investigations; but at the age of eighty it would be an idle labor.'

He seems to have in his mind the half intelligible speculations on the subject of *capital*, with which the economical treatises abound. The achievement of the American independence was an employment, or, if your please, an investment of capital, as much as the making of the Erie canal, or the introduction of steam-power navigation. In going to war we count the cost, as well as in undertaking any purely economical enterprise; but in computing resources, we do not confine ourselves to the use of the commonplace expressions of *capital*, *surplus produce*, &c.; we do not merely reckon how many dollars and cents our possessions are worth, but take into view the moral and physical powers of the community, and never doubt, that if these are roused to intense energy of action, they will supply the capital. Were we to sit down and speculate upon human affairs as the mere phenomena of a machine, the movements of which cannot be accelerated, or its powers increased, by motives and passions, we should undertake little, and only idly wonder at the small results developed by the sluggish action of a feeble mechanical system.

If the emperor of Cochin China wishes to construct a canal, he does not sit down computing the capital of his kingdom, with the dry and sterile *sang froid* of Mr Ricardo, but orders out some twenty or thirty thousands of his subjects to dig earth and remove rocks. In this way, a few years ago, he did make a canal to serve as a ship channel, a distance of twenty-six miles, if we remember rightly, which was completed in the short space of six weeks, and probably no speculations were made on the subject of capital, or surplus produce, in his empire, during the whole process; and the result was, either that his subjects were fed, clothed, and lodged a little less comfortably, or worked a little harder that year than usual, as a compensation for which they had a canal. This emperor, being a person of absolute authority, can concentrate the energies of his empire to any point. The will, the firm and unconquerable resolution of a democratic people, may stand in the place of a despot's authority in this respect, and rouse, concentrate, and direct their moral and physical power, which is their living and inexhaustible capital, to as intense action and as magnificent results, as ever sprang from mere obedience and fear inspired by an absolute sovereign. But the difficulty is to stir this lethargic giant, the public, into action, and endow him with firm resolves, and animate him to wield his mighty powers with uniform and sustained efforts. It is a slight thing merely to project and point out great enterprises. Thousands of such abortively perish in mere conceptions. They pass as dreams, the romantic visions of sanguine imagination. Such, say Mr Hawley, Judge Forman, and the other early friends of internal improvement in New York, was the canal project for some time considered. The state wanted capital; they had no surplus products; all the efforts of their industry would barely feed, clothe, and shelter the people; to turn so immense a portion of their industry away from the supply of their immediate wants, would ruin them; they would not tax themselves for so enormous a disbursement for the benefit of a few residing on the borders of the canal; capital must be sought in Europe for so great an undertaking, to which that of the United States was inadequate.

It was in answering these damping objections, dispelling local prejudices, fertilizing sterile minds with strong hopes, and, in a sort, creating a mighty power by inspiring the purpose of its exertion, that consisted the Herculean labor of this great

enterprise. And in this it was that Governor Clinton distinguished himself, and took the lead. When the project had been explained to him by Judge Platt and Mr Eddy, to whom 'he listened with great attention and deep agitation of mind,' after taking a short time to consider, he gave it his hearty support, and ever after uniformly devoted to it his time, talents, and influence, and involved his own popularity and prospects in life in its success, thereby meriting amply and gloriously the splendid triumph which has been awarded to him. In 1811 he and Gouverneur Morris were made commissioners to solicit the aid of the general government. 'Congress,' says Dr Hosack, 'peremptorily, and happily for the honor and interest of the state of New York, refused their aid.'

'In March, 1812, the commissioners made their report to the legislature, in which it was zealously urged, "that now, sound policy imperatively demanded, that the canal should be made by the state of New York alone, and for her own account, as soon as circumstances would permit; and that it would be a want of wisdom (and almost of piety) not to employ, for public advantage, those means which Providence had placed so completely in their power;" and with prophetic wisdom predicting, that it will ever remain "a testimony to the genius, the learning, the industry, and intelligence of the present age."' p. 102.

But the war of 1812 suspended, for a while, all proceedings in relation to the canal.

'After the war had terminated, many of the former friends of the canal appeared to be entirely discouraged, and to have abandoned all hopes of the legislature being again induced to renew the consideration of that subject. But Mr Eddy could not thus resign a favorite project; and it appeared to him that one more effort should now be made. His early coadjutor, Judge Platt, being in the city of New York holding a court, in the autumn of 1815, Mr Eddy addressed to him a note, requesting a visit from him the succeeding day. The judge, accordingly, accepted the invitation; when Mr Eddy proposed to him, that although the subject of the canal appeared to be entirely abandoned, yet, if it met his approbation, he would undertake to revive the business, by procuring a public meeting to be held, in order to urge the propriety and policy of offering a memorial to the legislature to prosecute the canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson. Judge Platt readily acceded to the proposal, and consented to open the subject to the meeting, if one could be obtained. De Witt Clinton was also, afterwards, called upon by Thomas Eddy in person, and united in adopting measures to procure such public meeting.



A large number of our most respectable citizens met accordingly at the City Hotel. At that memorable meeting the late William Bayard, Esq. acted as chairman, and John Pintard, Esq. as secretary. Judge Platt opened the meeting with an introductory speech, on the immense importance of the contemplated canal both to the city and state. He was followed by De Witt Clinton and others.

‘Although some opposition to the proposed measure was expressed by individuals of high consideration in the community, a resolution was nevertheless passed by a large majority in favor of the object. Whereupon De Witt Clinton, Thomas Eddy, Cadwallader D. Colden, and John Swartwout, were appointed a committee to prepare and circulate a memorial to be presented to the legislature in favor of the proposed Erie canal.

‘A memorial was drawn and published accordingly, and was extensively diffused throughout every part of the state; and at the ensuing session of the legislature, was presented to that body. It was the production of the pen of De Witt Clinton, and evinced a perfect knowledge of the subject; with a sagacious discernment of its beneficial results to the state and to the nation. Of that splendid and celebrated production, which doubtless was among the most instrumental means of establishing the canal policy on a firm basis, it is remarked by a competent judge,\* “that if Mr Clinton had left no other evidence, that memorial alone is sufficient to entitle him to the character of an accomplished writer, an enlightened statesman, and a zealous patriot.”’ pp. 102—104.

Among the articles in Dr Hosack's Appendix, is a very interesting and lucid account, by Colonel William L. Stone, of the legislative proceedings on this subject, in 1816, and subsequently. In the session of 1816, the uttermost that its friends could obtain, was a vote of twenty thousand dollars for completing the surveys. Mr Van Buren was among the number in favor of postponing the undertaking, and he had great influence in procuring a vote of the senate to that effect. The friends of the measure in the house, who had passed a vote to embark at that time in the undertaking, very reluctantly acquiesced in the vote of the senate. In the spring of 1817, however, Mr Van Buren gave the project his hearty and entire concurrence. And it was probably fortunate that it had been postponed, as great exertions were necessary to give the public a sufficient knowledge of the subject, and inspire them with a sufficient ardor in its favor.

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\* Jonas Platt, Esq.

The first decisive act of the legislature for commencing the work was passed in April, 1817. The act, having passed both branches of the legislature, was in danger of being lost in the council of revision. Judge Platt, in a communication to Dr Hosack, gives a particular history of the bill in the council. 'Powerful and appalling obstacles,' says he, 'were presented in the honest doubts and fears of many sensible and prudent men.' After relating the opinions of particular members of the council, he says,

'Near the close of the debate, Vice-president Tompkins came into the council chamber, and took his seat familiarly among us. He joined in the argument, which was informal and desultory. He expressed a decided opinion against the bill; and among other reasons, he stated, that the late peace with Great Britain was a mere truce; that we should undoubtedly soon have a renewed war with that country; and that instead of wasting the credit and resources of the state, in this chimerical project, we ought immediately to employ all the revenue and credit of the state, in providing arsenals, arming the militia, erecting fortifications, and preparing for war. "Do you think so, sir?" said Chancellor Kent. "Yes, sir," was the reply; "England will never forgive us, for our victories on the land, and on the ocean and the lakes; and my word for it, we shall have another war with her, within two years." The Chancellor then rising from his seat, with great animation declared, "If we must have a war or have a canal, I am in favor of the canal, and I vote for this bill." His voice gave us the majority; and so the bill became a law.' pp. 387, 388. But the Chancellor had most probably made up his mind on other grounds.

Though so many distinguished men had embarked in this project and promoted it with their utmost influence, yet from Mr Clinton's position in the state, he seems to have more entirely involved his popularity and political standing, than any other, and he appears to have had the strongest claims to a personal participation in the splendid success which followed. But all his efforts and acknowledged services did not save him from one of those sudden and unaccountable political reverses, of which the life of most men, who are constantly before the public in any political character in this country, affords instances. When the canal was nearly completed, on the twelfth of April, 1824, the two branches of the legislature passed a vote removing Mr Clinton from the board of canal commissioners. The measure, which seems to have been connected in some way with the presidential question, was a

mere party manœuvre, the policy or probable success of which, we are not able distinctly to perceive, from the account given of it by Colonel Stone, in a letter addressed to Dr Hosack, and published in this Appendix. The object, as he states it, was to draw out a minority in defence of Mr Clinton, who, being thus distinguished as his adherents, might be denounced as Clintonians. This denouncing process has often been found to operate with wonderful success in our politics, but we cannot see how it held out any good promise in this case, whatever turn the debate or votes might take. The proposition was suddenly got up, near the close of the session, and when it came down from the senate to the house, says Colonel Stone,

‘ A sort of panic seemed to prevail, and men looked at each other with fixed and unutterable amazement. As I have just remarked, the house was on the very point of its final adjournment, and many of the members were packing the papers upon their desks, as they were leaving their seats, when the resolution was announced. Mr Cunningham, who was a fine, noble-hearted man, and in reality what Mark Antony pretended to be—“ a plain blunt man, who spoke right on,” was in the act of putting on his over-coat. But though others stood hesitating and abashed, it was not the case with him. With but a moment for reflection, flinging his coat over his arm, he turned to the speaker, and with a countenance glowing with generous indignation, gave utterance to his feelings in the following bold and manly sentiments, in language warm, and proceeding spontaneously from the heart.

“ Mr Cunningham said he arose with no ordinary feelings of surprise and astonishment at the resolution just read as coming from the senate. Sir, said Mr Cunningham, it is calculated to arouse the feelings of every honorable gentleman on this floor ; its very approach is marked with black ingratitude and base design. I do not wish, said Mr Cunningham, to speak disrespectfully of a coördinate branch of the legislature, nor to impute their acts to improper motives, but I hope I may be permitted to inquire, for what good and honorable purpose has this resolution been sent here for concurrence, at the very last moment of the session.

“ Is it to create discord amongst us, and destroy that harmony and good feeling which ought to prevail at our separation ? We have, said Mr Cunningham, spent rising of three months in legislation, and not one word has been dropped intimating a desire or intention to expel that honorable gentleman from the board of canal commissioners. Sir, he was called to that place by the united voice and common consent of the people of this state, on account of his peculiar and transcendent fitness to preside at that board, and by his counsel stimulate and forward the great un-

dertaking; his labor for years has been arduous and unceasing for the public good; he endured slander and persecution from every direction like a Christian martyr; but steadfast in his purpose, he pursued his course with a firm and steady step, until all was crowned with success, and the most flagrant of his opposers sat in sullen silence.

“For what, let me inquire, did Mr Clinton endure all this? Was it for the sake of salary? No, sir; it was for the honor and welfare of his state; it was from noble and patriotic motives, and for which he asked nothing, received nothing, nor did he expect anything but the gratitude of his countrymen.

“Now, sir, said Mr Cunningham, I put the question to this honorable house to decide, upon the oath which they have taken, and upon their sense of propriety and honor, whether they are ready by their votes to commit the sin of ingratitude.

“I hope, said Mr Cunningham, there is yet a redeeming spirit in this house; that we shall not be guilty of so great an outrage. If we concur in this resolution, we shall take upon ourselves an awful responsibility, and one for which our constituents will call us to strict account. What, let me ask, shall we answer in excuse for ourselves when we return to an inquisitive and watchful people? What can we charge to Mr Clinton? what can we say that he has been guilty of, that he should now be singled out as an object of state persecution? Will some friend of this resolution be kind enough to inform me? Sir, I challenge inquiry. I demand from the supporters of this high-handed measure, that they lay their hands upon their hearts, and answer me truly, for what cause is the man to be removed?”

“The senate, it appears, have been actuated by some cruel and malignant passion, unaccounted for, and have made a rush upon this house, and taken us on surprise. The resolution may pass; but if it does, my word for it, we are disgraced in the judgment and good sense of an injured but intelligent community. Whatever the fate of this resolution may be, let it be remembered, that Mr Clinton has acquired a reputation not to be destroyed by the pitiful malice of a few leading partisans of the day.

“When the contemptible party strifes of the present day shall have passed by, and the political bargainers and jugglers who now hang round this capitol for subsistence, shall be overwhelmed and forgotten in their own insignificance; when the gentle breeze shall pass over the tomb of that great man, carrying with it the just tribute of honor and praise which is now withheld; the pen of the future historian, in better days and in better times, will do him justice, and erect to his memory a proud monument of fame, as imperishable as the splendid works which owe their origin to his genius and perseverance.” pp. 483—485.

This appeal had no effect. 'Many of the ablest and best men,' says Colonel Stone, 'though pricked to the heart with the injustice of the deed, yet were fearful of snares and pitfalls, and in the doubt and perturbation of the moment, voted for the resolution.' The result was all that the friends to civil liberty and foes to proscription and intolerance could have desired. This act aroused the spirit of the people to the highest pitch of excitement.

'For fourteen years De Witt Clinton had held the office of a commissioner on the subject of canals, during which period he had bent all the energies of his soul, and all the resources of his capacious mind, to the accomplishment of these mighty works. For years he had to struggle against an opposition, which, it might be supposed would have appalled the most daring, and overwhelmed the stoutest heart. But he breasted himself to the torrent like a giant, and not only turned its current back, but by his resistless powers, compelled his foes to do homage to the triumphs of his genius. And the whole of this period of fourteen years had been devoted to this branch of the public service, without salary or compensation. The intelligence spread with the rapidity of lightning, and the fire of indignation followed in its train. Public meetings were called, and attended by overwhelming numbers, in every part of the state. From Sag-Harbor to Niagara, there was a spontaneous demand from the people to bring back the persecuted patriot and statesman from his retirement. The sequel is known. Mr Clinton was again called to the chief magistracy of the state, by a majority then unparalleled in the annals of our contested elections.' p. 486.

On this subject we shall only add a notice of the final celebration of the completion of the chain of union between the east and the west, in the latter part of October and beginning of November, 1825, the work having been finally completed on the twenty-sixth of October of that year. It was a jubilee worthy of the work and of the state. At that time Mr Clinton was at the zenith of his popularity, being again chief magistrate of the state, and in the full fruition of the respect, gratitude, and confidence of the people. An arrangement had been made for a succession of *fêtes* from Lake Erie to New York city. Governor Clinton, attended by some of his friends and those of the great national work, the completion of which was to be celebrated, was to enter the canal from Lake Erie, and meet assemblies of the citizens on successive days at different points, and join them in festivities, attending public ad-

dressess, and celebrating the epoch with the pomp of processions and ceremonials, that might suitably express the feelings of generous triumph and gratulation which animated every bosom. But to prevent any disappointment, in case the work should not be completed at the time anticipated, and also to give some sensible signal, that all the people along this line of more than five hundred miles, were participating with each other in these triumphant gratulations, a line of cannon was formed from point to point within hearing distance, along the whole of the route from Buffalo to New York city. A signal was fired at the moment the boat entered the canal from Lake Erie, and this signal was answered and transmitted through the whole line, and again repeated and transmitted back from New York to Lake Erie, where, three hours after the first signal was given, it was announced that it had been acknowledged and returned through the whole distance. The procession of boats left Buffalo on the twenty-sixth of October, eight years and four months from the time of breaking ground at Rome on the fourth of July, with ceremonies and addresses appropriate to the beginning of so great a work. The procession arrived at New York city on the seventh of November. All circumstances concurred to make this celebration as gratifying and joyous as it was pompous and splendid. Every bosom glowed with one sentiment of generous pride and grateful exultation, and the expressions of humble religious gratitude, uttered by the organs of the public voice, at the successive festivals, were responded with heart-felt sincerity by the assembled multitudes. No lurking envy, or captious exceptions and doubts, or sinister forebodings of warning voices, disturbed the harmony, or damped the general enthusiasm. It was a celebration worthy to be the last scene of so great a work.

Had governor Clinton rendered no other public services than those connected with this work, he would have deserved a high place in his native state and his country, and his character would have filled a bright page in the national history. But his other labors equally make him the ornament and pride of his age; and rendered him a worthy subject of the many honors showered upon him in his own country and from abroad.

‘ At a very early period of his life, he acquired and cultivated habits of great industry; he rose at an early hour at all seasons of the year. He observed the utmost punctuality in all his en-

agements; this too he was the better enabled to accomplish, by means of the order and regularity with which he divided the several duties of the day; illustrating by example that well known truth, that he who has the most numerous avocations, is the most attentive and the most punctual in the performance of all; every hour not occupied by his numerous public duties, was devoted to general literature. History, poetry, taste, belles-lettres, metaphysics, natural history, theology, all in turn occupied those portions of his time, not devoted to public business, or the duties of the various stations he filled; and he studiously noted with his pen every fact or principle that he deemed important, or that might be rendered subservient to his intellectual improvement, or to the profit of others; by this habit of collecting in his common-place book what he considered of value, he was enabled to concentrate the ample stores of his knowledge upon the various subjects which occupied his more immediate pursuit; even those smaller portions of the day that are lost by most men, were not unemployed by him; like the goldsmith, who carefully accumulates the smaller particles that drop beneath his hand, and which collected, constitute the ingot, Mr Clinton, in like manner, carefully treasured up the minutest fragments of time, which though inconsiderable in themselves, compose an aggregate of great value.'

'The ordinary and more frivolous amusements of fashionable life presented no attractions to his mind; on the contrary, they were by him, I believe through life, most studiously avoided, as not only involving the loss of time, money, and reputation, but utterly incompatible with those pursuits and views that belong to a man who has at heart his dignity of character, the higher interests of science, or his country's welfare.

'This leads me to notice the merits of Mr Clinton as a writer and speaker. Mr Clinton, as a public speaker, was slow and deliberate in his manner, manifesting the constant exercise of his understanding while in the act of delivery; he also observed great order in the plan of his discourse, arranging his arguments with precision, and with the view of giving to each its appropriate place and effect, exhibiting thereby much previous and careful consideration of his subject; yet such was the quickness of his perception and power of analysis, that he did not require long preparatory deliberation to embrace a full view of the merits of the question which came before him.'

'Such were the ample stores of his mind, that when an extemporaneous expression of his views or opinions was demanded, whether upon the seat of justice, the floor of the senate, or upon any other public occasion, at the shortest notice he could summon to his purpose all the resources of his highly gifted and

cultivated understanding ; with these at his command, it may be added, Mr Clinton was enabled to give full force to the discussion in which he was engaged, and to avail himself of the peculiar advantage it afforded him of directing his attention to, and of observing the effects of his argument upon every individual of the body he addressed. Such too was his perception of the effect produced upon his auditory, that I have often heard him say, that when speaking in the senate, or other deliberative assemblies, he could decide at the moment the probable result of his address, and at once ascertain, how far it was safe to urge the question immediately to a decision, or to suggest the expediency of deferring such decision to a more distant day, when he could have the opportunity of adding to the friends of the measure he wished to accomplish.'

'He never indulged in rant or vehemence, either in voice or gesture, yet his clear and logical method and arrangement, the force and perspicuity of style, and dignity of manner, his strong and manly tone of voice, united with his undaunted firmness, gave to his discourse, whether in the judgment-seat or in the hall of legislation, an influence and effect, which no other individual, except the lamented Hamilton, Wells, and Emmet, has ever exercised in our state. As far as inductive reasoning, happy illustration, strong and vigorous language, a style always dignified, and oftentimes highly ornamented, can be considered as constituting eloquence, and are calculated to arrest the attention, and to carry conviction to his auditory, Mr Clinton is entitled to the denomination of an eloquent speaker.' pp. 37—41.

His style, not remarkable for precision of thought, or refinement and accuracy of expression, is animated, bold, and strong ; the language lofty and sweeping ; the illustrations and allusions, though not always in the most exact taste, drawn from a wide range of reading and study, are always striking. The style, on the whole, faithfully exhibits the expanded views, lofty motives, the elevation above the petty manœuvring and wily intrigues of party, the stern integrity and fearless intrepidity of the man.

Though during a great part of his active life he was tossing among the currents and eddies of our turbulent politics, sufficiently boisterous and agitated in every part of the country, but not least so in New York, yet he snatched a great deal of time for more quiet pursuits, the solaces of reflection and intellectual culture, and cheerfully lent his talents, influence, and labors to various charitable, literary, and economical objects. He was an active member of the New York Historical Socie-



ty, which is greatly indebted to him for its present flourishing condition, and promise of future usefulness. His Discourse before that society on Indian character and antiquities, is the fruit of great industry and research in a course of studies diverging widely from his ordinary pursuits. He was an active member of the Academy of Arts, contributed materially towards the establishment of the Orphan Asylum, the system of public schools, the agricultural societies, the New York City Hospital, the free-school societies. Every philanthropical institution or enterprise found in him a ready, zealous, indefatigable, and powerful friend; the eyes that saw him blessed him, and in future generations thousands will bless without seeing him.

He was a highly distinguished member of the masonic fraternity. We will not enter here into the question of the utility, expediency, or safety of these societies, in respect to which the public has of late been excited. But no doubt the influence obtained by Mr Clinton as a member of this fraternity, greatly extended his means of public usefulness.

‘Yielding faith,’ says Dr Hosack, ‘to the doctrine of contagion, as taught and sustained by the highest authorities in medical philosophy, Mr Clinton was the most strenuous advocate of the most rigorous system of quarantine regulations.’ Though this is doubtless meant by the author in commendation, it will be considered otherwise by a vast body of the medical profession, as well as others; and admitting the doctrine of contagion in its full latitude, it would not thence follow that the most rigid quarantine regulations are the best. One of the severe quarantine regulations is that of imprisonment, which is undoubtedly justifiable, when required by the safety of the community; but the necessity certainly ought to be pretty satisfactorily made out.

‘Upon the most rigid scrutiny of his productions, not a line or word will be found to justify a resort to implied authority from ambiguous phraseology, or to the tyrant’s “plea of necessity,” for a latitude of construction in ascertaining the extent of limited grants of power. On the contrary, as a Senator, as a Judge, and as a Governor of the State, he constantly repressed the claims of power, steadily resisted the encroachments of the different branches of the government upon the province of each other, and firmly, at much hazard, vindicated the sovereignty of the State, and the individual rights of the citizen.’ p. 43.

On some occasions, of which this Memoir supplies instances, Mr Clinton showed himself the assertor of the authority of the laws in opposition to the momentary excitements of popular feeling. We are not, therefore, to infer from the above passage, that he carried his apprehensions of the usurpations of authority to the extreme of screening the criminal from the just penalties of the violated laws. The general expression above quoted of "vindicating the sovereignty of the State" has some reference, we presume, to those passages in Governor Clinton's addresses and messages relating to the jurisdiction and legal administration of the courts of the United States. But we think the ground taken by him on this subject, was at least very questionable; we certainly should not choose these passages as the fittest subjects of eulogy.

Mr Clinton died at Albany on the eleventh day of February 1828. The concluding scene of his life is thus described;

'On the Friday preceding his death, after a long conversation I held with him in his library, I bade him a last farewell, under the fullest conviction, as I confidently expressed to his more immediate friends, that I should never see Mr Clinton more.

'On the Monday following, the eleventh of February, he performed his ordinary duties at the capitol; rode a few miles into the country with his family; returned to town; met some friends at dinner, and afterwards, as was his habit, retired to his study for the transaction of official business, and his accustomed literary pursuits. While sitting in his library, he was suddenly seized with a sense of oppression and stricture across the chest; he spoke to his son sitting near him, who was then writing, performing some duty that had been directed by his father, described to him the distressful and, as he feared, fatal sensation he experienced. Medical aid was instantly called for. By the direction of his son, some drink was given him. He walked into the hall, but soon returned to his chair in the library;—the hand of death was upon him—his head fell upon his breast. A physician arrived, but too late;—all efforts, though unremittingly continued for some hours, to recall his parting spirit, proved unavailing;—sense—consciousness—intelligence—had fled for ever;—Clinton was no more.'

p. 131.

Mr Clinton's 'person was tall, exceeding six feet in height, of a fine form, and well proportioned. In his earlier years he was remarkable for his thin and slender make; but in the latter part of his life, his frame became expanded, and in consequence of lameness from an accidental injury, by which he was deprived of his customary exercise, he acquired a fulness of habit, which predis-

posed him to the diseases that ultimately supervened, and in their consequences led to his dissolution. His carriage was elevated; his movements deliberate and dignified, sometimes manifesting great earnestness, but never precipitancy.

‘His head was well formed and particularly distinguished for the great height and breadth of his forehead; his hair was brown; his complexion brilliant; his nose finely proportioned and of the Grecian form; his lip thin, and of that peculiar configuration that some critics have deemed indicative of eloquence.

‘His eyes were of a dark hazel color, but peculiarly quick and expressive; sometimes indicating all the playfulness of the most vivid imagination; upon other occasions, moistened with a tear, displaying the most tender emotion that can weigh upon the heart; but when a sense of injury or wrong called for redress, the same eye could flash the fire of indignation in expressing the powerful feelings that were then passing through his mind. The muscles of his face, especially when exercised in conversation, or in public speaking, were strongly marked, and exhibited the impulse and energy of the soul that animated them.’ p. 120.

‘In all the changes of a long and eventful life, he was never known to abandon a faithful friend. His gratitude for past services was ever a prominent trait in his character; his fidelity to those from whom he had ever received an act of kindness was proverbial.’ p. 123.

Mr Clinton was twice married; first to Maria Franklin, daughter of Walter Franklin, a merchant of New York, and member of the society of Friends. Of the ten children of this lady, four out of seven sons, and two out of three daughters, have survived both parents, and are now living. His second marriage was in 1819, to Catharine Jones, daughter of Thomas Jones, a physician of New York. It appears that Mr Clinton left his family little other inheritance than the rich one of his fame, and the affectionate recollections of all who knew him.

This Memoir by Dr Hosack is written in a very candid, liberal spirit. Though he was the warm friend and great admirer of Mr Clinton, he does not indulge in resentment towards his competitors and enemies. The work does great credit to his industry and good judgment. We think that the public will join with the assembly before which the discourse was delivered, in thanking Dr Hosack for his performance. He has shown an indefatigable activity in collecting materials, by a wide range of inquiry and correspondence; and has thus drawn out many historical facts and documents to be transmitted to posterity, which but for his labors would probably not have been rescued from oblivion.